720. *Transferred to the* 27th *July,* 1992.}

Completion of strategic roads in Tripura

721. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to, state:

(a) what are the strategic roads in Tripura;

(b) whether all these stragic roads have been completed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) There are 7 roads' under Strategic Roads Programme in Tripura. The names of these roads are given below:—

S. No.	Name of roads
1	Agartala-Udaipur-Santirbazar Road
2	Santirbazar-Manubazar Road
3	Manubazar-Upendranagar Road
4	Bisramganj-Sonamura Road (via Melagarh)
5	Bogafo-Belonia Road
6	TaJiampura-Amarpur-Udaipur Road
7	Agartala-Singerbil Road

Improvement works on these roads are almost complete except 7 bridge works, out of which 4 bridges are in various stages of progress and the remaining 3 are yet to b$_e$ taken up.

Strike by All India Motor Transport Congress

722. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
DR. SANJAY ASINH: SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL:
SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Motor Transport Congress had given a Call for Nation Wide indefinite strike in support of their demands;

(b) if so, whether Government have accepted their demands;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what alternative arrangement Government have made to ritigate difficulties of the people and to check the prices of essential commodities like vegetables etc., during the stike period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The demands raised by Ail India Motor Transport Congress and main gist of Government's reply thereto are given in the statement (see below).

(d) The Government closely monitored the situation arising out of the strike and intrusted the State Governments to ensure uninterrupted supply of essential commodities.

Statement

List *of Demands raised by All India Motor Transport Congress and main gist of reply by Government*

(1) & (2): *PATKAR & OCTROI:*

It was noted with reference to the demand for abolition of pathkar that the matter is pending before the Supreme Court in a writ petition filed by the All India Motor Transport Congress.: Government would await the decision of the Supreme Court on the issue.

The Government have decided to abolish octroi from all Union Territories.

Government agree to set up a Committee consisting of representatives of the Central Government and the State Governments which would examine all issues pertaining to octroi and path-kar.

(3) *Insurance;*

It was noted by both sides that the Stipreme Court in its judgement in the motor tariff case, while upholding the prerogative of the Tariff Advisory Committee to review tariff rates, directed that the Tariff Advisory Committee should give a fair hoa-i-ig to the potitioners. It should examine the case, if any, for a reduction of tariff. The GIC have informed that they have drawn up a tentative schedule for the hearing by the TAC in each of the four zones in July and August 1992. The decision of the Tariff Advisory Committoo would be. awaited.

(d) Multirle *Enforce-msrx Agencies'*

II was agreed by the Central Gov-ernme'H that the pow-irs of the police in be following matters would be withdrawn from the M.V. Act, 1988:

(i) Overloading;

(ii) Checking of permits.

(iii) Checking of permit conditions;

(iv) Checking of insurance certificates;

(v) Licences of conductors;

(vi) Certificate of fitness (Except when the vehicle is involved in accident).

Suitable amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act would be processed.

(5) *Overloading of Vehicles:*

It was pointed out to the representatives of the AIMTC that there already exists strict penalties for overloading in the Motor Vehicles Act (Section of the Motor Vehicles Act).

It was agreed thaf'the "instructions to the State Governments to curb overloading would be reiterated.

(6) *Driving Licence*

It was agreed that suitable amendments to the section 7 of the Motor Vehicles Act would be made whereby eligibility of obtaining a learner's licence would be the possession of a light or medium motor vehicle driving licence for a period of one year.

(7) *Taxes and Duties*

It was explained that paper on rationalisation of taxes had been presented for consideration by the Inter-State Council.

So far as invoking of the powers of the Central Government to lay down the principles of taxation on road transport, the specific suggestions of the AIMTC in this regard may be made available for the examination and consideration of Government.

(8) *Highway Robbery-.*

It was stated on behalf of the Ministry that the Ministry of Surface Transport have received representations in this regard and have already taken up the matter with the concerned State Government. The Ministry of Surface Transport would call a meeting o the IGs tff Police of " the States of U.P., Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar to chalk out a strategy to curb the menace of highway robberies. The AIMTC would also be invited to the above meeting.

(9) *Permit Reqwrefnent»:*

Central Government agree in principle to the suggestion of the AIMTC that vehicles which operate only within a State should not require a permit. It was indicated that the registration certificate would! in-elude the terms and conditions of permit as well as Ministry of Surface Transport would discuss this with the State Governments for a decision at the next meeting of the Transport Development Council.

The suggestion that the number of States for a National Permit should be reduced from 4 to 2 would be taken up with the State Governments,

(10) *Agt* of Vehicles:

It was agreed that a Technical Committee would be set up, to give its report within three months as to whether the age limit of 9 years of vehicles operating under a National Permit should be raised and if so, to what extent.

(11) Updating of Carriers' Act:

The Ministry has not received and suggestion on: the amendments that were required to be made to this Act. It was agreed that the AIMTC would furnisifo a background note which would be considered by the Ministry of Surface Transport expeditiously.

(12) Withdrawal of Gulf Surcharge in the price of diesel:

Government is unable to accept the demand.

(13) Diesel outlets to be given on priority basis to Associations and co operatives of road transport opera tors:

It was intimated that the matter was being closely pursued by the Ministry of Surface Transport and a decision is awaited from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(14) Toll on Bridges:

It was agreed that a list of the bridges constructed by the Central Government where tolls were being charged and the present stage of collection would be intimated to the AIMTC.

(15) Prices of vehicles and tyres:

It was intimated that the Government have no powers to impose any price controls.

(16) Reduction of excise duty on light commercial vehieles;

It was pointed out that the present excise duty on 20 per cent ad valorem on commercial vehicles is not very high considering the fact that the average excise duty on manufactured products works out to about 21 per cent. Govemment is unable to accept the demand for a reduction of excise duty on commercial vehicles.

Conversion of State Highway into National Highway in, Gujarat

723. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for conversion of State Highway No. 6 into National Highway in Gujarat;

(b) whether any such proposal has been submitted by the Gujarat Government; and

(c) if so, what is the estimated cost thereof and whether this project is a joint venture with the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) Various State Governments have sent a total of 135 proposals aggregating to approximately 37,566 kms, including the road in question in Gujarat, for declaration as new National Highways dur-